



FRIDAY 22 JULY

M E D I A R E L E A S E

HEAVY VEHICLE EXPERT PANEL SEES VALUE IN A 'REGULATOR WITH TEETH'

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has applauded an observation by a panel of experts looking into heavy vehicle laws that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) requires significant resources to carry out its work effectively.

"ALC welcomes the Expert Panel's assessment, contained in its final report released yesterday, that the regulator needs to be properly resourced," said ALC Chief Executive, Michael Kilgariff.

In its report, the expert panel states:

*"...the ultimate success of the NHVR will rest on the support, authority and resources that the new regulator receives in pursuing agreed national outcomes in partnership with the relevant jurisdictional agencies."*¹

"From day one of this process to establish truly national heavy vehicle laws and a national regulator to administer them, ALC has called for the regulator to be given "teeth" to ensure it can do its job properly," he said.

"With insufficient funding we run the risk of creating another bureaucratic layer that inhibits a seamless, national approach, instead of one that supports it.

"I am pleased the expert panel has recognised this fundamental point that the entire concept of a national regulator of heavy vehicles is at risk if the regulator has insufficient funds to roll out a national scheme and administer a modern, nationally consistent heavy vehicle law.

"ALC calls on the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure and COAG to take on board the observations of the expert panel and to ensure the NHVR receives the funding it requires to its job properly", he said.

Mr Kilgariff said ALC's strong support of the heavy vehicle initiative lies in the significant industry and community benefits that would flow from eliminating the inconsistencies that exist in heavy vehicle laws around the country.

"Achieving a nationally consistent regulatory framework for heavy vehicles has the potential to significantly increase the efficiency and productivity of the heavy vehicle sector, improve safety, and reduce duplication and compliance costs.

"And when industry enjoys reduced business costs, consumers also benefit in the form of lower prices for goods, so this is an important reform for all of Australia, not just the heavy vehicle industry", Mr Kilgariff said.

The Independent Expert Panel was established by the Australian Transport Council in 2010 to provide evidence-based standards for inclusion in the national law on a number of unresolved policy issues, including fatigue.

For further information contact Michael Kilgariff: CEO of ALC on 0418 627 995.

¹ Page 28, Independent Expert Panel on Heavy Vehicle Policy Report
Website: <http://www.ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?documentid=2173>